



IEN Program Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)

April 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes

(Approved June 14, 2011)

The April 12, 2011 meeting of the IEN Program Resource Advisory Council was held in the East Conference Room of the JRW Building, 700 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternate(s) Present:

Tom Luna, (Chair) Superintendent of Public Instruction
John Miller, Dean of Off Campus Instruction, College of Southern Idaho
Jerry Reininger, Director of Information Systems, Meridian School District
Teresa Luna, Interim Director, Dept. of Administration
Sen. John Goedde, Chairman of Senate Education Committee
Sen. Bert Brackett, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Sen. Shawn Keough, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (phone)
Rep. Darrell Bolz, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee
Rep. Wendy Jaquet, Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee

Alternate

Jacob Smith, Idaho Digital Learning Academy

Absent Members

Jay Larsen, Executive Director, Idaho Technology Council
Shelly Sayer, Premier Technology Inc. (VTC)
Cheryl Charlton, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
Rep. Bob Nonini, Chairman of House of Representatives Education Committee

Others Present:

Martin Bilbao, ENA	Garry Lough, IEN
Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO	Jodi McCrosky, Qwest
Bob Collie, ENA	Keith Murphy, Qwest
Mike Costa, IEN	Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co./ITA
Robin Finch, Dept. of Administration	Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN
Kerrie Hurd, USDA	Joel Strickler, Qwest
Amy Johnson, LSO	Mike Vance, ENA
Brady Kraft, IEN	Greg Zickau, OCIO

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOTION: Sen. Goedde moved and Sen. Keough seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 8, 2011 as presented; the motion passed unanimously.

ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS

Greg Zickau reported that Syringa and Qwest were in negotiations and if these concluded by April 15 (as expected), then services from local Syringa companies could be ordered where appropriate.

Questions and Discussion

Brady Kraft explained that the Connectivity Report indicates those locations for which Syringa Ethernet is preferred. Wireless technology will not be required in Syringa-member locations, however there are four other locations (Parma, Wilder, Marsing and St Maries) for which microwave solutions will be pursued. Mr Zickau noted that the Syringa Ethernet solution is the most economical and best positions the IEN for containing costs over the long term.

John Miller observed that Valley School District had opted out of joining the IEN. Districts that have opted out, have the option every year to join the IEN (as was the case with Lapwai SD), it was not known whether Valley SD had opted out permanently.

LSO AUDIT

Teresa Luna reported that the Legislative Services Office had undertaken its first audit of the IEN, which had passed with no findings.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jerry Reininger reported on several items that arose at the IEN Technical Advisory Committee meeting of April 6:

- Cisco has purchased Tandberg and there are potential equipment changes. Cisco and Polycom equipment is being evaluated in terms of continuity and compatibility with current equipment.
- Approaching the end of Year Two, the budget is allowing for some infrastructure purchases:
 - a bridge will enable users to connect to more than three locations at one time;
 - a small content server will enable the recording of meetings and classes for catch-up purposes;
 - an event scheduler package will make finding classes and reserving resources easier.
- The IEN lawsuit against the state, ENA and Qwest has been dismissed with prejudice; there was no evidence of wrongdoing. The issue of an appeal and payment of fees is still to be determined.
- Qwest merged with CenturyLink on April 1. August 1 is the target date for complete brand transition.
- Ann Joslin (Commission for Libraries) reported that about 13 public libraries have been identified that could make use of IEN connectivity as part of their broadband BTOP project and as a result of new E-Rate rules. The Commission for Libraries is working with ENA in this regard.

Questions and Discussion

A query was raised about whether recordings of classes could be viewed before the class being recorded had concluded – Mr Kraft will look into this. The disadvantage of recordings is the lack of interaction with the teacher.

Sen. Goedde reported he had heard from districts that were sharing classes on different bell schedules that the students often miss 15 minutes of a class and this could put them in a position whereby they do not have enough minutes to graduate. Supt. Luna commented that bell schedules were no longer part of the master agreements which meant there was greater flexibility for districts to coordinate their schedules.

CONNECTIVITY REPORT

Brady Kraft reported that the IEN E-Rate application for the coming fiscal year had been completed. Based on the preliminary numbers, the state will receive an additional 2% in reimbursement for FY12. This is due to an increase in the number of students relying on free and reduced school lunches. Mr Kraft estimated that 2% equated to about \$250,000/year.

To date there are 78 districts (140 high schools / over 67,000 students) connected to the IEN, a substantial increase since the last meeting. There are 14 districts (23 schools) in progress and these are expected to be completed very shortly. The connectivity report includes all public charter high schools.

Questions and Discussion

Information was requested regarding how much independent E-Rate assistance districts are receiving, ENA will report on this at the next meeting. Mr Kraft explained that virtual schools are handled on a customized, individual basis as they are all a bit different.

COMMUNICATIONS

Garry Lough reported that most of the communications since the last meeting had centered around preparations for next fall and the potential impact of “Students Come First”. There is interest from agencies wanting to leverage the IEN to serve their labor force in professional development. A number of schools would like to be origination sites but these are limited by the grants the IEN is receiving. The first teacher evaluation had been undertaken (Meridian SD), which had shown the value of the CTAC (Customer Technical Assistance Center).

Mr Lough and Mike Costa had visited Weber State University (Utah) in March, where a greater volume of dual credit is delivered over video than all of Idaho combined. The importance of having a good proctor in the classroom had been stressed (reiterated in the Meridian teacher evaluation) as well as a blend of synchronous and asynchronous teaching.

Questions and Discussion

Sen. Goedde followed up on a previous query regarding communication with North Idaho College (NIC). Mr Lough said he would be visiting NIC and some of the schools in that region in the next couple of weeks and would be working to find better solutions and keep them informed.

CURRICULUM

Mr Lough reported that the spring numbers are projected rather than actual as the semester is not yet finished. It appears as though the number of students has risen but the number of credits has gone down, this will be more accurately reflected at the end of the semester. It is projected that, by the end of the year, about 2,300 credits will have been earned. Around mid-May, a catalogue will be released that will outline the courses available, this will also help with the aligning of schedules.

Questions and Discussion

Rep. Jaquet queried the number dual enrolment versus high school credits. Mr Lough estimated that of the 1084 credits from the current semester, about 75 students were receiving a high school class over the IEN. Rep. Jaquet also queried who was originating classes. This information will be included in future reports though the information will be more reliable and easily obtained once the longitudinal data process is established.

The drop off in the number of teachers being trained mirrors a 60-day delay in implementation caused by a review of VTC deployment. The altered implementation of remaining systems will bring about a saving of \$116,000. This delay has not affected the implementation timeline. May and June training schedules have been prepared which will bring the numbers back up again.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NOMINATION

Kerrie Hurd, business program specialist with USDA Rural Development, advised the council that the IEN (which has received DLT grants) had been nominated for a USDA Rural Development award because was an ideal candidate to exemplify what best represents rural America. There are several reasons that make the IEN an ideal candidate for the award: it is a very community-centric project; it eliminates travel dollars so it is tax-payer friendly; it overcomes obstacles of rugged terrain where high-speed broadband is not feasible; and it focuses on the future by improving opportunities for students.

The nomination will be submitted to the office of the Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, where projects across the nation will be selected. There is potential for the IEN to receive national media exposure. Ms Hurd will keep the council informed on the progress of the nomination.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Bolz requested future meetings begin at 1:30 in order to accommodate his commitment to the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce meetings.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2011 at 1:30pm, venue to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,



Sally Brevick, Office of the CIO